

Current Status of All Claims in the Application:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A drive housing for a disk drive including a storage disk having a storage surface, the drive housing comprising:

a housing shield positioned near the storage disk, the housing shield being sized, shaped and formed from a material so that ~~The drive housing of claim 1~~ wherein the housing shield has an attenuation of field of at least approximately 50 dB.

11-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A drive housing for a disk drive, the disk drive including a magnetic storage disk having a disk surface, the drive housing comprising:

a housing shield positioned near the storage disk, the housing shield being formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 50,000.

17. (Original) The drive housing of claim 16 wherein the housing shield has a thickness of at least approximately 0.30 millimeters.

18. (Original) The drive housing of claim 17 wherein the housing shield is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 100,000.

19. (Original) The drive housing of claim 16 wherein the housing shield further includes a base shield-portion and a cover shield-portion that are positioned substantially parallel to the disk surface of the magnetic storage disk, and wherein the cover shield portion is positioned so that the storage disk is substantially between the

cover shield portion and the base shield portion.

20. (Original) The drive housing of claim 17 wherein the base shield portion and the cover shield portion are sized and shaped to shield the magnetic storage disk from an external magnetic field that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface of the storage disk.

21. (Original) The drive housing of claim 20 wherein the magnetic storage disk is positioned entirely between a superimposition of the cover shield portion onto the base shield portion.

22. (Original) The drive housing of claim 20 wherein the housing shield further includes a wall shield portion that secures the cover shield portion to the base shield portion, wherein the wall shield portion is positioned substantially perpendicular to the storage surface of the storage disk.

23. (Original) The drive housing of claim 17 wherein the housing shield is formed substantially from a nickel-iron alloy.

24. (Original) The drive housing of claim 17 wherein the housing shield is sized, shaped and formed from material so that the housing shield has an attenuation of field of at least approximately 10 dB.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The drive housing of claim 25 wherein~~ A disk drive for storing data, the disk drive comprising:

a storage disk including a storage surface; and

a drive housing that encircles the storage disk, the drive housing including a housing shield positioned near the storage disk, the housing shield having an attenuation of field of at least approximately 50 dB and including (i) a base

shield portion that is positioned substantially parallel to the storage surface of the storage disk, (ii) a cover shield portion that is positioned substantially parallel to the storage surface of the storage disk, the storage disk being positioned substantially between the cover shield portion and the base shield portion, and (iii) a wall shield portion that secures the cover shield portion to the base shield portion, the wall shield portion being positioned substantially perpendicular to the storage surface of the storage disk; wherein each of the shield portions is formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 100,000.

27-28. (Canceled)

29. (New) A disk drive comprising:

a storage disk having a storage surface; and

a drive housing that is positioned so that the storage disk is rotatably mounted to the drive housing, the drive housing including a housing shield that is formed from material that provides an attenuation of field of at least 25 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.

30. (New) The disk drive of claim 29 wherein the drive housing includes a base and a cover that are positioned substantially parallel to the storage surface, the storage disk being positioned substantially between the base and the cover, and wherein the housing shield forms a portion of at least one of the base and the cover to provide an attenuation of field of at least approximately 25 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.

31. (New) The disk drive of claim 29 wherein the drive housing includes a base and a cover that are positioned substantially parallel to the storage surface, the storage disk being positioned substantially between the base and the cover, and wherein the housing shield forms a portion of the base and the cover to provide an

attenuation of field of at least approximately 25 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.

32. (New) The disk drive of claim 29 wherein the housing shield is formed from material that provides an attenuation of field of at least 50 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.

33. (New) The disk drive of claim 29 wherein the drive housing includes a base and a cover that are positioned substantially parallel to the storage surface, the storage disk being positioned substantially between the base and the cover, and wherein the housing shield forms a portion of at least one of the base and the cover to provide an attenuation of field of at least approximately 50 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.

34. (New) The disk drive of claim 29 wherein the drive housing includes a base and a cover that are positioned substantially parallel to the storage surface, the storage disk being positioned substantially between the base and the cover, and wherein the housing shield forms a portion of the base and the cover to provide an attenuation of field of at least approximately 50 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.

35. (New) The disk drive of claim 29 wherein the housing shield is formed from material that provides an attenuation of field of at least 50 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially parallel to the storage surface.

36. (New) The disk drive of claim 35 wherein the drive housing includes a one

or more side walls that are positioned substantially perpendicular to the storage surface, and wherein the housing shield forms a portion of one or more of the sidewalls to provide an attenuation of field of at least approximately 50 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially parallel to the storage surface.

37. (New) The disk drive of claim 29 wherein the housing shield is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 50,000.

38. (New) The disk drive of claim 29 wherein the housing shield is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 100,000.

39. (New) The disk drive of claim 29 wherein the housing shield is formed from a nickel-iron alloy.

40. (New) A disk drive comprising:

a storage disk having a storage surface; and

a drive housing that is positioned so that the storage disk is rotatably mounted to the drive housing, the drive housing including a housing shield that is formed from material that provides an attenuation of field of at least 50 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially parallel to the storage surface.

41. (New) The disk drive of claim 40 wherein the drive housing includes a one or more side walls that are positioned substantially perpendicular to the storage surface, and wherein the housing shield forms a portion of one or more of the sidewalls to provide an attenuation of field of at least approximately 50 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially parallel to the storage surface.

42. (New) The disk drive of claim 40 wherein the drive housing includes a base and a cover that are positioned substantially parallel to the storage surface, the storage disk being positioned substantially between the base and the cover, and wherein the housing shield forms a portion of at least one of the base and the cover to provide an attenuation of field of at least approximately 25 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.

43. (New) The disk drive of claim 40 wherein the drive housing includes a base and a cover that are positioned substantially parallel to the storage surface, the storage disk being positioned substantially between the base and the cover, and wherein the housing shield forms a portion of the base and the cover to provide an attenuation of field of at least approximately 25 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.

PS 44. (New) The disk drive of claim 40 wherein the housing shield is formed from material that provides an attenuation of field of at least 50 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.

45. (New) The disk drive of claim 40 wherein the housing shield is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 50,000.

46. (New) The disk drive of claim 40 wherein the housing shield is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 100,000.

47. (New) The disk drive of claim 40 wherein the housing shield is formed from a nickel-iron alloy.

48. (New) A method of shielding a magnetic storage disk from an external magnetic field, the magnetic storage disk having a storage surface, the method including the steps of:

rotatably mounting a magnetic storage disk having a storage surface to a drive housing having a housing shield; and

forming the housing shield from material that provides an attenuation of field of at least approximately 25 dB to at least partially shield the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the step of forming the housing shield includes forming the housing shield from material that provides an attenuation of field of at least approximately 50 dB to at least partially shield the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially parallel to the storage surface.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the step of forming the housing shield includes forming the housing shield from material that provides an attenuation of field of at least approximately 50 dB to at least partially shield the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage surface.
